

# **Governor's Energy Efficiency and Renewables Task Force Building Codes and Standards Workgroup Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2004**

Present:

Chair Jim Boullion, AGC Wisconsin  
Keith Reopelle, State Environmental Leadership Program  
Senator Fred Risser  
Randy Schneider, Monroe Equipment  
David Simon, Veridian Homes

Observers:

Norman Bair, WI Dept of Administration  
Cathy Boies, Customers First! Coalition  
Jerry Deschane, WI Builders Association  
Judy Mathewson, WE Energies  
John Mielke, ABC of Wisconsin  
Jim Quast, Dept of Commerce  
Lisa Roys, Ruder, Ware & Michler, LLSC  
Brian Zelenak, Xcel Energy

There was a building code briefing by Jim Quast of the Division of Safety and Buildings, Department of Commerce. A handout was provided which covered the current building code process, the current code development cycle and code input in the future.

1. SB 112 was discussed at length. Concerns include the impact on Commerce, as well as timeliness of plan approvals if lighting design review is reinstated. Eight to 15,000 commercial building plans are submitted a year, and Commerce currently has position vacancies. Plan reviews now have a two-week turnaround, but if lighting calculations for design are reinstated, there could be plan review delays. Previously when DOC reviewed lighting plans, few lighting code compliance problems were found, and despite the actual plan, many last minute decisions are made on lighting placement and fixtures so that the final installation may end up different than what the DOC reviewed.

There was discussion of the Illuminating Engineers Society standards, and the recent adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) developed by the International Code Council (ICC). Wisconsin adopted IBC on July 1, 2002, but with a delayed implementation date of July 2004. The delay was necessary to give designers and contractors time for training regarding the new code.

The ICC is on a 3-year cycle of updating their code—2000, 2003, 2006, etc. Because there was a major code update last year, Commerce is not planning to adopt the ICC's 2003 code update. They are looking at starting their next code update cycle as soon as the preliminary drafts of the 2006 ICC are available, hopefully by the end of 2004. A 2007 effective date would be the earliest implementation date, providing for a 12-month lead time from date of adoption.

An update is required every two years for the residential Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) and Multifamily. The commercial code is required by statute to be updated every five years. This was under the old "home-grown" code process. It was mentioned that it would make sense to require Wisconsin to get on the same 3-year review schedule as the ICC .

After discussion, there was no recommendation as to SB 112.

2. Judy Mathewson of the WE Energies Building Code Collaborative provided a briefing as to their efforts at finding practical ways to make the building codes more energy efficient. ASHRAE, AIA, contractors, IES, School of Architecture and Urban Planning at UWM are all represented in the Collaborative. The Collaborative is looking at residential, multifamily and commercial buildings. Two key components of their effort include: increasing efficiency of codes and sponsoring training; and technical support for code compliance. They have completed a high level review of UDC and have two recommendations: removal of mercury thermostats; and a more efficient water heater standard.

Jim Quast summarized the UDC discussion by stating that the Collaborative is comfortable with the current residential code as it relates to the thermal envelope. It was felt that the most benefit could be attained through education and training. The Collaborative is currently working on sponsorship of the UDC training.

The commercial code review is still ongoing and currently includes:

1. Reducing allowable lighting densities, lighting controls and enforcement.
2. Building Envelope: modifying glazing tables to require higher efficiency glass.
3. HVAC design standards that appear to prohibit the use of natural ventilation in certain areas.
4. Water heating opportunities.

The Collaborative has also looked at building codes in other states, and received information from the energy design group of the New Buildings Institute.

The Collaborative is currently focused on the lighting area. In the next 6-8 weeks they should have something to present to the Task Force. Doing training in 2004 on advanced building guidelines from the New Buildings Institute is one of their major projects.

Brian Zelenak raised an issue of some electrically heated new homes that must be built to a higher standard for energy efficiency.

3. There was discussion of strategies to develop proposals and what should be done to get additional input and proposals for consideration. There was also discussion about what can be done by code and what needs legislation. It was suggested to invite the Legislative Council to the next workgroup meeting to delineate what can be done by statute and what must be done by law. There was also discussion about bringing in the Wisconsin Division of Energy Group for a presentation.

Norman Bair offered to send a list of website links that would be useful to the Building Codes Workgroup and those will be forwarded on to the committee.

The next workgroup meeting should include presentations by the Legislative Council, Energy Center of Wisconsin, DOA, and perhaps someone from the LEEDs/Energy Star programs. The many "stakeholder" groups that are involved with building codes need to be informed of this workgroup's meetings and seek their input. Jim Boullion will put together an informal Request for Information (RFI) and distribute it to the many construction related trade associations with which he is familiar. The same RFI could be sent to other interested groups and workgroup members are encouraged to help identify those groups.

The Subcommittee will have its recommendations by the end of July. This will allow some time for review and possibly a public hearing.

Several dates for the next workgroup meeting were discussed and will be finalized in the next few weeks.